



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE FORCES NORTH  
4400 DAUPHINE STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70146-5400

IN REPLY TO

13 Sep 04

From: Commander, Marine Forces Reserve  
To: All Marines, Sailors, and Civilians of Marine Forces Reserve  
Subj: ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND, MARINE FORCES NORTH

1. Today I assumed command of Marine Forces North. I remain in command of Marine Forces Reserve. I will serve simultaneously in both positions, and will continue to require the assistance of the Marine Forces Reserve staff to fulfill all of my duties.

2. Until today, LtGen Berndt, Commander, Marine Forces Atlantic, also served concurrently as the Commander, Marine Forces North. He and his staff did an outstanding job, integrating the USMC into domestic operations.

3. It is my honor—both personally and professionally—to have been selected for this command. I was chosen, in part, because of the exceptional work you have done in preparing for and executing the mobilization of Marine Forces Reserve. I intend to build on the foundation laid by LtGen Berndt and his staff, and to further enhance USMC support to U. S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM).

4. USNORTHCOM is the combatant command responsible for operations in most of the United States. USNORTHCOM's missions are two-fold: one, defense of our homeland and two, homeland security in support of civil authorities. Marine Forces North is USNORTHCOM's USMC service component, and brings Marine forces, assets, and expertise to bear in support of domestic operations.

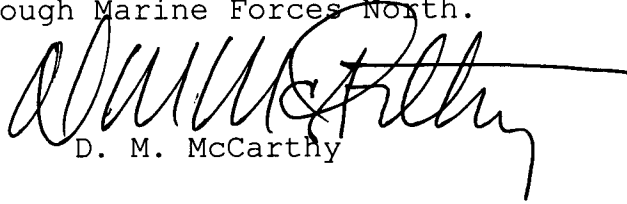
5. Most of the Marine Forces Reserve staff will be unaffected by my new duties. However, some Marines assigned to Marine Forces Reserve staff will, like me, be "dual-hatted." That is, they will serve concurrently in positions where they are responsible for both Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North matters.

6. All Marines assigned to Marine Forces Reserve need to understand that my roles as Commander, Marine Forces Reserve and Commander, Marine Forces North are completely separate and distinct. It is most important to know that when I am acting as Commander, Marine Forces North, I represent the whole Marine Corps, not only its Reserve.

7. This occasion also provides me an opportunity to both thank and compliment you for the good work you do everyday in support

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of Marine Forces Reserve. I am continually impressed by all that you accomplish for the Marines and Sailors of Marine Forces Reserve. I know you will also do an outstanding job supporting our Corps and USNORTHCOM through Marine Forces North.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. M. McCarthy', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

D. M. McCarthy